

MINUTES  
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
APRIL 4, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:30 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Nick Bridgeman, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, and Nick St. Sauveur.

Ex officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Tim Hester, Parks and Recreation; David Vandergriff, UT Ag Extension; Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center; and David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering.

Visitors present were Erin Gill, Office of Sustainability; Mariah Lowry, AmeriCorps temp with Urban Forestry; and Cady Greenslit, AmeriCorps temp with Parks and Recreation.

**Action Items for April**

- March minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Erin Gill, Director, Mayor's Office of Sustainability**

Erin Gill was with us to talk about what's going on in her office and how their work impacts the environment. The effort and initiatives taken to make Knoxville greener have been no small task, but with the help of environmentally conscience businesses, non-profits and governmental agencies involved, our City has become more progressive. This office works at a community scale in order to bring change and improvements city wide. Erin gave us an overview of some of the projects that they are involved with, and/or will be involved with in the future.

- Energy efficiency improvements to low income homes to help with utilities.
- Work LED buildings for certification.
- Internal staff is working on Recode Knoxville.
- Working on making Knoxville a certified Bee City USA.
- One of their missions is carbon reduction across the city. By 2030 they hope to have cut emissions in half.
- Working with ORNL on analyzing change in carbon emission.
- Certified by National Wildlife Federation.
- Another goal is to work closer with Urban Forestry and the Tree Board.

**City Update** by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey and the Board will be moving forward with updating the education display.
- There is a current vacancy on the Tree Board due to Kenneth Townsend relocating outside of Knoxville. Kasey has asked the Board for recommendations.
- The tree planting contract will be going out to bid this year.
- The Missouri Gravel bed has been replenished with new plantings.

**Education & KUB Report** by Nick Bridgeman

- Right Tree, Right Place presentation will be postponed until June.
- We will be partnering with Trees Knox at Earthfest. Nick will be getting with everyone on time slots for volunteers.
- KUB will be giving away around 250 Eastern Red Bud seedlings at Earthfest.
- KUB is also currently working on revamping their tree replacement program.

### **Trees Knoxville Report** by Tom Welborn

Tom reported on March and upcoming April events for Trees Knox.

- 3-9-19 Gresham Middle School tree planting – 10 trees and 25 volunteers finished planting in about an hour.
- 3-13-19 Volunteer Forester meeting – 4 people came out and we discussed how to better utilize the volunteers and a survey request from an outside source to send to our volunteers.
- 3-16-19 Pollinator Tree Planting at Knoxville Botanical Gardens – 42 native trees planted by 36 volunteers completed in little over 2 hours. Permaculture Guild held design and install swells to collect water for each tree.
- 3-21-19 Regional tree distribution for 250K tree day sponsored by TN Environmental Council at Knoxville Botanical Garden. Approximately 17,500 were distributed. We had 4 volunteers help.
- 3-23-19 250K day at KBGA – distributed 612 trees to 47 individuals. We had 4 volunteers that help with the event.
- 3-26-19 Kasey and I had a meeting with design firm to discuss potential for improved design and reforestation of housing developments in Knox County.
- 3-29-19 meeting with attorney to finalize Trees Knoxville staff policies.
- 4-2-19 meeting with Norwood Elementary Staff to plan tree planting in late April and give students some seedlings.
- Events in April – 4-16-19 Tree Walk at Sequoyah Park.
- 4-24-19 Volunteer Forester Training starts.

### **Ex-Officio Reports**

- No reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.